

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U. S. Application No. 09/556,821

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 7-10, 17-20, 23 and 24 are allowed.

Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by previously-cited Roylance et al. (US 6,390,579; hereafter "Roylance").

Claims 2-6, 12-16, 21 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


By the present Amendment, Applicant seeks to rewrite claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21 and 22 in independent form. Also, Applicant seeks to cancel claims 1 and 11. The Amendment should place claims 2-6, 12-16, 21 and 22 in form for allowance, as well as claims 7-10, 17-20, 23 and 24, which have already been allowed. Since the amendments included herein are in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, the Amendment should be entered even though it is after a final Office Action.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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